

HONORING BARBARA BROWN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Barbara Brown.

Ms. Brown was influenced by her history and government teacher to return to her hometown of Canton, Mississippi, to teach because he saw a spark of passion in her for educating youth. She retired from education after serving 47 years as a teacher at Canton High School.

Ms. Brown attended Jackson State University and received a degree in Social Science. Three years later she returned back and received her master's degree in Social Science.

Ms. Brown currently resides in Canton, Mississippi. She has two sons and one grandson. She attends Middleton Groves A.M.E. Zion Church in Canton, Mississippi. She enjoys working with students because she feels that she can make a difference in their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Barbara Brown for her dedication to serve her community.

FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Eleven years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community:

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award: Sergeant Aaron Bowling, and Detectives Tyler Ackerman and John Jones, Jr., of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Associate Service Award: Director Matoaya Wimbley of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Dedication and Professionalism Award: Corporal Christopher P. Slowick of the Florida Highway Patrol; Sergeant Dino Murgas, Detectives Derek Pollock and Raymond Richter of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office; Assistant State Attorneys Dawn Buff and Courtney Hollen of the 12th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office; Lieutenants Adam Kaskey and

Jamesa Tose, Sergeants Don Bennett, Sam Lutz and Ray White, Deputies John Albee, Mark Eve, Wida Law, Phil Lucia, Grace Luh, Dean Pappas, Teodoro Perez, Luis Reyes, Neftali Santos, Daniel Schenck, Rod Stewart, Deb Stookey, Mark Truskowski, Ray Vleck and John Wenzel, Civilian Lou Wolf, Detectives Hayden Gallof and Brendan Keats, Chief Pilot Brent Wineka, Pilots David Bouffard, Chirs Laster and Stephen Shull (posthumous), Mechanics Arthur Grassia and Douglas Wenz, and Radio Technician Steve Duzs of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.

Gary Tibbetts Career Service Award: Detective Eddie Howell of the Sarasota Police Department; Manager Valerie Knight of the Bradenton Police Department; Major Daniel Kaufman of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office; Joseph (Chris) Panichello of the Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority.

Preservation of Life Award: Officers Paul Gagnon, Jared Lawhead, David Roberts and Cody Stanaland of the Sarasota Police Department; Sergeant Keith Noordzy, Deputies Keith English, Tyler Lewis, Donald Mays, Jacob Merrill, Deborah Perry, Jonathan Rubi, Todd Seillitto and Patti Smith of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Unit Citation Award: Sergeant Daniel Weinsberg, Officers Sean Carter and Matthew Hughes, and Administrative Specialist Tina Shumway of the Sarasota Police Department.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MS. JEWELL BELL**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Jewell Bell, a beloved pillar of King University and Bristol, Tennessee. Ms. Bell has dedicated over 70 years of service to this excellent academic institution and the well-being of its students. Her tenure spans nearly half of King's 152-year history. She began as a maid in the women's dormitory. In 1961, while Bristol's public schools were still segregated, she was promoted to switchboard Operator and Supervisor and given a staff of 10 assistants. She was the first African American in the region to manage a switchboard, for which she became affectionately known as "Ma Bell." In 1966, her son, Lawrence, Jr. became the first African American student to attend King. As the Executive Administrative Assistant for Communications, she remains the voice of King, answering calls and serving the President's office.

Jewell's legacy of community service is notable as well. She has earned the Algenon Sydney Sullivan Award, the YWCA's Tribute to Women Award, the first ever King University Lifetime Achievement Award, her own lane on the campus named after her, and being declared an Aide-de-Camp by former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, an honor that carries with it the title of Tennessee Colonel. In addition, King University offers a scholarship named the Jewell H. Bell Scholarship, which goes to help students who, as she describes, "have fallen through the cracks and need a little extra help to stay in school." She has devoted many years of service to the YWCA of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia,

the American Red Cross, Slater Community Center, Healing Hands Health Center, and Lee Street Baptist Church. While her children were in school, she served on the PTA and was the first African American PTA Council President in the Bristol, Tennessee, city school system.

Her legacy of love includes being married to her late husband, Lawrence, for 50 years, three grown children, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. In her words, she says "my children are grown now, but King is still my home, the students are my family and I love them. Some of my family call me Gran, some call me GG, JB, Miss Jewell, plain Jewell, Mrs. Bell, or Ma Bell. I feel like God has enabled me to be here so long because of them, and I believe I've made an impact."

Madam Speaker, Jewell Bell has been a source of wisdom, compassion and support for students and alumni, as well as a strong community advocate for racial equality and positive change and I proudly honor her.

HONORING CUBDEERIX "DEEDEE"  
ROBINSON**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious young lady, Ms. Cubdeerix "DeeDee" Robinson. DeeDee has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

DeeDee, a Yazoo native, was awarded the Doctor of Optometry Degree from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and was named to the Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Scholastic Fraternity. She also earned the William Dickerson, Jr. O.D. Scholarship, which honors a student's commitment to pursuing private practice optometry and comes with a \$1,000 monetary award.

DeeDee is the daughter of Cubie Robinson and Dianne Willis. She is a graduate of Yazoo City High School and the University of Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Cubdeerix "DeeDee" Robinson for her passion and desire to make a difference in the field of healthcare.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MR. GEORGE LAWSON**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and service of Mr. George Lawson of Sevierville, Tennessee. George was born on August 6, 1949 and passed away on Thursday, August 5, 2021.

He was bonded as a deputy in 1972 and was elected in 1976 to serve as a Constable for Sevier County. His years of service made him one of the longest serving elected officials in the State of Tennessee, and he loved serving his community and his church family.

Along the way, he mentored and inspired many young adults to serve in law enforcement including one, Matt Grooms; who went on to become a United States Border Patrol Agent and eventually an agent with the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Lawson was a self-employed business owner and his flexible schedule enabled him to serve his fellow citizens as their Constable.

For decades he served the citizens of Sevier County as a Constable with the familiar slogan, "my services as your Constable are always as close as your telephone" and as the times changed, he offered his personal cell phone to his fellow citizens to be available to them. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and at one point served as a deputy Sheriff in Sevier County. He helped lives including his own Sheriff in one dangerous setting and pulled a woman to safety and saved her from drowning in the Little Pigeon River. He was a true public servant.

George's legacy of love includes his marriage to his wonderful wife, Charlotte, and his children, Cindy, Tammy and son, Little George Stephen, who have given he and Charlotte seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, George Lawson has faithfully served his community and family, and I proudly honor him.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF JEFFREY MITCHELL

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Jeffrey Mitchell. Elected officials, business leaders, community advocates, and New Mexicans from all walks of life looked to Jeff's leadership and broad expertise to build a better New Mexico.

Jeff was an economist and the Director of the Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. As head of BBER, Dr. Mitchell oversaw the economic forecasting for the entire state. He directed economic analysis and projections that assisted private businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and cities, and towns. His regular presentations were followed closely by CEOs, political leaders, and community advocates. Jeff brought sharp insights, expert research, keen wit, and deep compassion to his leadership and policy roles. He believed firmly that economic analysis and community development should benefit the greater society and foster a broadly shared prosperity.

Jeff was also a community builder. He actively worked with nonprofits to promote renewable energy and sustainable development and was a policy advisor to 1000 Friends of New Mexico. He co-founded SHARE New Mexico, a comprehensive, web-based resource directory that ensures everyone similarly dedicated to improving our communities has the information they need. As an econo-

mist, he used numbers and math to perform his work, but most importantly he relied on his love for our beloved communities to guide it.

Jeff's passion for life and discovery cannot be distinguished from his professional accomplishments. As a young adult, Jeff hitchhiked across the United States and Central America with a book of philosophy in his backpack, curious to learn about these great lands and their peoples. He was a humanitarian from an early age, and he started his career working on housing and energy projects for low-income communities. He was a Fulbright scholar in Venezuela and traveled through every corner of New Mexico and the world, working and learning. It was that never-ending sense of curiosity that helped make Jeff's career—and life—so full.

Jeff especially loved the arts and cultures of New Mexico and was the lead author of a groundbreaking report that found that they contributed \$5.6 billion to the state's economy and nearly 10 percent of its jobs. His work on this issue even helped inform legislation I introduced—the Creative Economy Revitalization Act—to create jobs and support our creative workers through the pandemic.

Jeff will be deeply missed by his friends, loved ones, and family. He left us too soon, and we will always remember him. Jeff's work, wisdom, and curious spirit will echo throughout New Mexico and across our country for generations to come. It is my honor to enshrine his contributions to our state, culture, and economy in history.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HONORABLE TOM WRIGHT

**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Tom Wright of Greeneville, Tennessee. Mr. Wright currently serves as Circuit Court Judge for the State of Tennessee's Third Judicial District. He was elected to the position in 2006 and reelected in 2014. Prior to his election as Circuit Judge, he served for eight years as the General Sessions and Juvenile Judge for Greene County, Tennessee, having been elected to that position in 1998. Judge Wright will be retiring September 1 to spend more time with his family, including two children, their spouses, and grandchildren at two separate Army bases, with the third grandchild coming soon.

Tom graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law with high honors in 1983 and was selected for membership in the Order of the Coif. Following his graduation from law school, he worked briefly for Campus Crusade for Christ before accepting a position as a Judicial Law Clerk for United States District Judge Thomas G. Hull.

Tom was in the private practice of law for several years following the judicial clerkship then accepted the position of Assistant Federal Community Defender for upper East Tennessee. He served as Federal Defender for six years before his election as Judge in 1998.

Judge Wright has been active with the Greeneville High School football team as their chaplain, Young Life, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He says, "I thank God for the opportunity to mentor, teach, and encourage these folks in their faith. Serving the State of Tennessee and the people of the Third Judicial District has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am so incredibly grateful to God and the people of Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen, and Hancock counties for giving me the opportunity."

Madam Speaker, Judge Tom Wright has been an outstanding judge and valuable contributor to the Greeneville community. I proudly honor him.

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BIDEN ENDANGERS AMERICAN FAMILIES

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during my service in Congress, I have concluded over 500 one-minute speeches with "God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism."

This reaffirmed my appreciation of our military for keeping Americans safe for 20 years. The 2,312 U.S. military personnel killed and 20,666 wounded in Afghanistan did not serve in vain. I know firsthand of the achievements of former S.C. Adjutant General Bob Livingston with the 218th Brigade across Afghanistan. I am a grateful dad of an Afghanistan Veteran with First Lieutenant Hunter Wilson. But my hopes for remembering September 11th were misplaced. The conquest by the Taliban and Al Qaeda this past week confirms that the shocking lesson of September 11th has been forgotten: it is possible to conduct a terrorist attack on American families at home from a cave in Afghanistan abroad resulting in the mass murder of 2,977 innocent souls.

General David Petraeus is sadly correct, the war is not over. It has moved. Now it is closer, putting American families at the greatest risk of a terrorist attack ever, with chants of "Death to America, Death to Israel."

President Joe Biden undercut our Afghan allies on April 14th, removing air cover and intelligence reports against the advice of military leaders. Over 60,000 Afghan military and police have been killed fighting Taliban terrorists. Former Ambassador Ryan Crocker, a valued resource of experience in the Global War on Terrorism, correctly asserted that the situation is "catastrophic." President Biden must change course immediately and accept military counsel or he will be further diminished as a personification of catastrophic failure in the horrific tradition of appeasement like Neville Chamberlain.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we should never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.